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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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TAGS: SCUL, YO

SUBJECT:STAG FOR STRUGA POETRY FESTIVAL

1. FOR STRUGA FESTIVAL, DEPARTMENT HAS THREE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. MILNE HOLTON, WHO MAY BE KNOWN TO EMBASSY, HAS BEEN

INVITED BY FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS AND PLANS TO ATTEND. HOLTON, RECOMMENDED TO CU/EE BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POETRY CONSULTANT AS ONE OF LEADING US AUTHORITIES ON YUGOSLAV POETRY AND LITERATURE, WILL LECTURE AT AN ENGLISH TEACHING SEMINAR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN SEPTEMBER ON A STAG GRANT. HE IS PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT U OF MARYLAND, WAS FULBRIGHT LECTURER IN SKOPJE 1970, AND PUBLISHED AN ANTHOLOGY OF MACEDONIAN LITERATURE WHICH HE ASSISTED IN TRANSLATING INTO ENGLISH. HE WAS INVITED BY U OF LJUBLJANA TO LECTURE 1974/75 BUT BECAUSE OF FAMILY HEALTH PROBLEMS, WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT. HOLTON ATTENDED STRUGA FESTIVAL IN 1970 AND 1973.

B. CLARENCE MAJOR HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO STRUGA. HE HAS
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BEEN LECTURER AND WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE AT SARAH LAWRENCE,

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CUNY, WISCONSIN STATE AND OTHERS. HE HAS PUBLISHED THREE

NOVELS; (REFLEX AND BONE STRUCTURE(1975) NO (1973) AND ALL-NIGHT VISITORS (1969), AND EIGHT BOOKS OF POETRY (THE SYNCOPATED CAKEWALK, THE COTTON CLUB AND PRIVATE LINE BEING THE THREE MOST RECENT.) BORN IN 1936, MAJOR IS LISTED IN WHO'S WHO IN THE EAST (1975-76, 15TH EDITION), WHO'S WHO AMONG BLACK AMERICANS (1975) AND INTERNATIONAL

WHO'S WHO IN POETRY (1975.)

C. RECOMMENDED BY BOTH LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POETS IS CHARLES SIMIC. CURRENTLY AT U. OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, SIMIC WON THIS YEAR'S EDGAR ALLEN POE PRIZE WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POETS. THE PRIZE IS IN "RECOGNITION OF CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF (THE POET'S) ART" AND WAS AWARDED FOR HIS 1974 VOLUME ENTITLED RETURN TO A PLACE LIT BY A GLASS OF MILK. SIMIC HAS PUBLISHED 4 OTHER BOOKS OF POETRY AND 3 VOLUMES OF TRANSLATIONS OF MODERN YUGOSLAV POETRY INTO ENGLISH. BORN IN YUGOSLAVIA IN 1938, SIMIC HAS LIVED IN THE U.S. SINCE 1946, SPEAKS SERBO-CROATIAN AND FRENCH AND IS LISTED IN CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS.

2. NEITHER MAJOR NOR SIMIC HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY CU, NOR HAVE NAME CHECKS BEEN STARTED. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED ADVISE DEPARTMENT ASAP WHICH OF THREE EMBASSY BELIEVES MOST SUITABLE FOR STRUGA FESTIVAL. KISSINGER

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